

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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R 241511Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8081

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 1543

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA TREATMENT OF CYPRUS RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ANKARA 1356

1. CYPRUS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HEAVY COVERAGE IN THE TURKISH MEDIA OVER THE WEEKEND (FEB 22-24), ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN EASTERN TURKEY RECEIVED TOP PLAY IN MOST PAPERS.

2. STORIES FOCUSSED MAINLY ON THE CONTINUING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE AND ON THE FORMATION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN THE TURKISH-CONTROLLED SECTOR OF THE ISLAND. IN SATURDAY EDITIONS, SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET USED A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE TO REPORT

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THAT AMERICAN AND SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN ANKARA HAD BEEN

INFORMED BY THE MFA OF TURKEY'S VIEWS ON THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING MILLIYET, GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO COMMENTS ON THE U.S. MILITARY AID CUT-OFF BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FRIDAY DURING DEBATE ON THE MFA BUDGET. (SEE SEPTTEL.) PRIME MINISTER IRMAK'S STATEMENT TO A GERMAN NEWSPAPER THAT NATO MEMBERSHIP REMAINED THE HUB OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY RECEIVED ONLY PASSING COVERAGE IN THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND.

3. EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES ON THE AID CUT-OFF WERE FEWER IN NUMBER OVER THE WEEKEND THAN IN COMPARABLE PERIODS SINCE FEB 5 AND THEMES WERE LARGELY REPETITIVE OF EARLIER COMMENT. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL MONDAY, HURRIYET SAID THAT CONGRESS IS LIKELY TO TAKE UP AGAIN THE QUESTION OF AID TO TURKEY. EVEN WERE AID RESUMED, DECLARED THE PAPER, IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO REPAIR OF THE U.S.-TURKISH TIE OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONFIDENCE. IN AN EDITORIAL IN SUNDAY EDITIONS, HURRIYET DECLARED THAT THE AID CUT-OFF HAD THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF DAMAGING TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH NATO EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE RESULT OF U.S. ACTION ALONE.

4. IN OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT, ALI SIRMEN, WRITING IN LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURRIYET, CHIDED PRIME MINISTER IRMAK FOR HIS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TURKISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. THE STATEMENT, SIRMEN DECLARED, WAS INCONSISTENT WITH IRMAK'S EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT DEFENSE SYSTEM REQUIRED REVIEW IN LIGHT OF THE CUT-OFF. SIRMEN CONCLUDED THAT THE IRMAK GOVERNMENT HAS NO ENTHUSIASM FOR CHANGING THE BASIS OF TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH EITHER NATO OR THE U.S.
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